It is expected that when this process is complete, the Department will be using 9 tons of charcoal per day, thereby feeding 10,000 persons who will be engaged in the manufacture of charcoal. If, therefore, I have spent less time in the matter of providing comforts for the passengers, I am sure that honourable members will not accuse me of neglect. When we are in that happy position of running all vehicles on charcoal gas, we may be able to get about 3 lakhs of Rupees as profit from the working of the Department. We shall then be in a position to provide extra comforts to the passengers.

I am very sorry indeed to hear the remarks of Mr. Kuriyppe alleging that some passengers travel from Trivandrum to Kottayam and from Kottayam to Trivandrum at a reduced fare with the connivance of the officers of the Department. I must take this opportunity to defend the staff of my Department. The remarks of Mr. Kuriyppe are most unfair, as he virtually accuses the entire staff of dishonesty. There are blacksheep everywhere, but I can boldly say that the men with whom I have had the opportunity of working have proved to be most earnest, enthusiastic and co-operative. At the time when the country was thrown into dissension, they served the Department and the Government most faithfully and courageously. I can assure the Honourable Member that if he or anybody else brings to my notice one single instance of dishonesty, I am prepared to take the strongest in fact, the only action in such cases, that is, instant dismissal of the delinquent without any consideration for his past services.

In regard to the further extension of the service to North Travancore, I may say that I am myself anxious to extend it at least to Alwaye which now stands isolated from other garages of the Department. If we are able to get sufficient number of vehicles, immediate arrangements can be made for extending the service to Alwaye. We will endeavour to do that. With regard to the question of making the Department permanent, I am informed that it is receiving the consideration of Government.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 17,00,242 under Demand IX Commercial Transport, was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND X—CLAY REFINING AND PORCELAIN FACTORY.

Sardar Dogar Singh: I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 3,04,600.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 3,04,600 under Demand X—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory was put and carried.

The grant was made.

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